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Attorney Docket No. 00048/LH**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Masaru SUDO et al  
Serial No. : 09/496,061  
Filed : February 1, 2000  
For : ENDOSCOPE IMAGE SENSING  
METHOD AND APPARATUS  
Art Unit : 2613  
Examiner : Shawn S. An

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a Japanese Office Action dated May 10, 2005  
(and English translation thereof) issued in the  
counterpart Japanese application;
- (2) Copies of cited publications; and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A.

An English translation of said Japanese Office Action is provided, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

The references cited under "Prior Art Search Report" in the Japanese Office Action (see page 2 of the translation of the Japanese Office Action) are not a part of the Japanese Office Action and are not references of interest in the present application. Therefore, they are not being cited as part of the present IDS.

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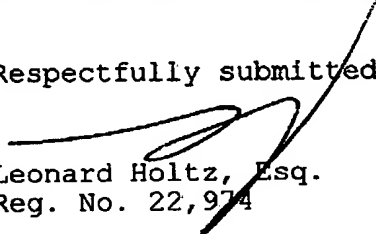
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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from foreign patent offices in counterpart foreign applications not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of May 10, 2005. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Leonard Holtz, Esq.  
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: June 22, 2005

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|---|---|----|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> |   |    | Application Number   |                        | 09/496,061       |          |
|   |   |    | Filing Date          |                        | February 1, 2000 |          |
|   |   |    | First Named Inventor |                        | M. SUDO          |          |
|   |   |    | Group Art Unit       |                        | 2613             |          |
|   |   |    | Examiner Name        |                        | Shawn S. An      |          |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1                    | Attorney Docket Number |                  | 00048/LH |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Inits <sup>1</sup> | Cite No <sup>1</sup> | Document Number | Kind Code <sup>2</sup> | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
|                          |                      |                 |                        |                               |                             |                  |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam Inits <sup>1</sup> | Cite No <sup>1</sup> | Offic <sup>3</sup> | Document Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup> | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                         |                      | JP                 | 07-298293                    | A                      |                               | 11-10-1995                  |                  |                |
|                         |                      | JP                 | 10-290469                    | A                      |                               | 10-27-1998                  |                  |                |

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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPBP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: June 22, 2005